

more of her time she was beginning to have ideas of her own Writing naturally followed She planned an article on Social Diagnosis The plan, which survives, is altogether admirable, and was to be put, amply, into practice, but the writer's mind moved on to project two other essays, one on the History of English Economics, the other on the Economic Theory of Karl Marx The first of these was finished in the autumn of 1885 the second in the spring In her very sharp and acute criticism of the Marxian theory of value, she is, along similar lines, and for similar reasons, reaching the same conclusions that were, about this same time, being formulated by the Fabian Quartette, under the guidance of Sidney Webb She explains, in an interesting entry in her Diary, that the dogmatic and authoritative tone she naturally assumes in writing arises not out of vanity, but out of the certainty and apparent inevitability of her own conviction as to the point of view she expresses

"I can't help my ideas taking a positive form, and if I try to express them in a hesitating way, I am only affected. It is either 'I don't know, for I am not capable of judgment,'⁵ or 'I believe with my whole heart and soul that black is black and nothing will persuade me to say that it is white.' It is this hopeless independence of thought that makes my mind so distasteful to many people, and rightly so; for a woman should be more or less dependent and receptive. However, I must leave the world with my mind as it is, and be true to myself."

Meantime, while she was working thus

intensively,
enduring, in fullest measure "the intolerable
toil of thought"
and finding release in thus grappling with
objective problems, the way was opening which was to
lead her into
the heart of the citadel Her cousin Charles
Booth had,
already, taken her into his closest counsels in
planning
out that great Enquiry into conditions in
London which
was, when completed, to act as a most
potent impetus